

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	52677	Agenda Number	12.
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Meeting Date:	12/17/2015	Department:	Economic Development
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a design and commission agreement with Kincannon Studios in an amount not to exceed \$118,500 for artwork for the Republic Square Park Phase II Improvement Project.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$118,500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Kevin Johns, Director, Economic Development Department, (512) 974-7802; Meghan Wells, Art in Public Places Administrator, (512) 974-9314
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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	November 16, 2015 – Approved by the Arts Commission on a vote of 7-2-0 with Commissioners Willenzik and Chair Flores voting against; Commissioners Stillwell and Taormina absent.
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MBE / WBE:	
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

This Art in Public Places project is funded by the Republic Square Park Phase II Improvement Project located in District 9, to implement the Master Plan for Republic Square developed by design firm Design Workshop for the Parks and Recreation Department and approved by City Council in 2012. The Art in Public Places project funding comes from 2% of eligible capital improvement and parkland acquisition, in accordance with the Art in Public Places Ordinance (Chapter 7-2). The artwork is to be located in an exterior location in the park, the exact siting to be determined in collaboration with Design Workshop, project stakeholders, and City staff.

The Art in Public Places artwork goals for this project were designed to support the needs of the community and enhance the Master Plan commissioned by Design Workshop. The artwork goals include commissioning a contemporary work of art that: responds to the historical and cultural significance of Republic Square Park; complements the goals of the Republic Square Master Plan; contributes to a family-friendly experience of the park; creates a vibrant and contemporary artwork that lends identity to the park; and presents low maintenance needs through the use of appropriate and durable materials. Community stakeholders and City staff reviewed and provided input on the public art project prospectus prior to its approval by the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released on March 17, 2015 to professional visual artists and artist teams, at least 18 years of age, who live and work in the state of Texas. Artist outreach included an artist information meeting held at the Cultural Arts Division Offices on April 16, 2015, information posted on the AIPP website, multiple notices in AIPP newsletters, notification to community stakeholders/arts organizations, and social media.

The selection panel and advisors met on June 3, 2015 to review the 33 eligible applications submitted by the advertised deadline including images of past work, resume, and letter of interest. The Selection Panel selected five artist teams as finalists for interviews: (1) Norberto Dominguez, Val Mayerik and Helen Howell Graves; (2) Fidencio Duran and Alan Barber; (3) Joseph and Holly Kincannon; (4) Norman Lee, Shane Allbritton and Joseph Meppelink; and (5) Michelle Tarsney and Dan Cheetham.

The Selection Panel conducted interviews on July 2, 2015 and could not come to a recommendation at the end of the day. The Selection Panel agreed to meet on Monday, July 6 and made the recommendation for the team of Michelle Tarsney and Dan Cheetham as the finalist, and the team of Joseph and Holly Kincannon as the alternate, on a vote of 2-1.

On July 6, 2015, the recommendation for the team of Michelle Tarsney and Dan Cheetham as the finalist, and the team of Joseph and Holly Kincannon as the alternate was presented to the AIPP Panel. After some discussion about the split recommendation, Panel Member McCray made a motion to form an expedited Working Group (including AIPP Panelists Emily Little, Jaime Castillo, and Chris McCray) to meet before the end of the month to discuss possible next steps in the selection process. The motion passed (5-0-0). Panel Member Little was absent.

On August 3, 2015, the Panel made a motion to approve the recommendations from the Working Group (made up of AIPP Panel members Emily Little and Chris McCray and Arts Commissioner Jaime Castillo) from a meeting held on July 24, 2015. The Working Group recommended that the three top-voted artist teams of Fidencio Duran and Allan Barber; Joseph and Holly Kincannon; and Michelle Tarsney and Dan Cheetham be invited to present a design proposal for the AIPP artwork opportunity. The three artist teams were paid a proposal stipend of \$1500 and allowed six weeks to research, develop and prepare a proposal for an artwork that addresses the project goals. The motion passed (4-0-0). Panel members McCray and Walker were absent.

The three artist teams met on September 11, 2015 for a pre-proposal meeting and were presented with a historical presentation of Republic Square Park by Kate Singleton of Preservation Austin, a current project status update by Susan Benz of The Benz Resource Group, and a design update by Philip Koske of Design Workshop.

The Selection Panel and Advisors met on October 22, 2015 to interview the three teams and review their proposals. The Selection Panel voted 2-1 to recommend Joseph and Holly Kincannon as the recommended artists; and the team of Michelle Tarsney and Dan Cheetham as the alternate.

At their meeting on November 2, 2015, the Art in Public Places Panel voted to approve the Selection Process Recommendation (6-0-0). Panel member Barnes was absent. The Arts Commission approved the Selection Process Recommendation on November 16, 2015 (7-2-0). Commissioner Willenzik and Chair Flores against; Commissioners Stillwell and Taormina were absent.

SELECTION PANEL

- Roy Watson, Principal, Dyal and Partners
- Sylvia Orozco, Executive Director, Mexic-Arte Museum
- Steven Spears, ASLA, PKA, AICP, Partner and Principal at Design Workshop

PROJECT ADVISORS

- Susan Benz, The Benz Resource Group
- Rey Hernandez, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department
- Melissa Barry, Downtown Austin Alliance
- Colin Wallis, Austin Parks Foundation
- Meredith Powell, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association and Republic Square Partners Group
- Emily Little, Art in Public Places Panel Liaison